

FEBRUARY 1932

RECKLESS RALPH'S

# DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

OFFICIAL ORGAN HAPPY HOURS BROTHERHOOD.

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(Reprint)  
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## COVER OF THE ORIGINAL.

The cover of the original of this reprint carried a photo of COMIC WIDE AWAKE LIBRARY Vol.1-No.12, featuring the tale, "SHORTY, or, Kicked Into Good Luck."

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## FIRST OF THE FAMOUS SHORTY STORIES.

First page (no separate cover) of the first of the famous Shorty stories as reprinted in Tousey's Wide Awake Library, No.12, Oct.2, 1878, two years after it ran as a serial in Boys of New York in 1878. This all-American comic series was a factor in the spectacular success of Boys of New York, one of the very few papers in its field, which ran for two decades. The Shorty stories are representative American novels, written for boys; and hold up the mirror to the golden age of the old-time minstrel show.

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## THE GOLDEN AGE OF ENGLISH BOYS' LITERATURE.

A Bibliographical Review of Twenty Years Progress, 1862-1882. Edited by

Wm. J. Bonnors.

Old-timer, reader, and world authority on serial story papers.

"At no period of history, have boys been so well or so abundantly supplied with light literature as at the present time, (1882). Less than a hundred years ago, such a thing as a book specially produced for boys, was absolutely unknown, and only were

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written within the past thirty years (1852-1882) has there been anything like an attempt to supply the want.

We think that a short review of the various magazines and journals for boys, which have appeared during the past twenty years, (1862-1882), will prove interesting to many of our readers. We have spared no pains to make this account as perfect as possible.

Toward the close of the year 1862, the Boys Miscellany was produced by Harrison, of Salisbury Court, Fleet Street. Although this at first achieved a fair success, it was a tame and not over well-conducted affair and ceased publication after its thirty-three numbers.

The monthly illustrated magazines, published in the year 1862, were only two--the Boys Own Magazine, price 2d., edited and published by O.S. Beeton, 248 Strand, which was first established in 1855; and, Every Boy's Magazine, which first appeared in 1862, as a sixpenny monthly, edited by Edmund Routledge and published by the then firm of Routledge and Warne.

The year 1863 witnessed some great changes in boys' literature. Beeton's Boys Own Magazine was enlarged to ninety-six pages and furnished besides illustrations interspersed among the reading, four separate plates printed on toned paper, the price being increased to 6d.

Among the contributors to this Boys Own Magazine, were--J.G. Edgar, whose stories, reprinted in volume form, are highly popular with boys (1882)--W.H.G. Kingston, another famous writer of fiction--James Greenwood, shortly afterwards to become famous as "The Amateur Casual"--and W.H. Davenport Adams, the well-known litterateur.



The illustrations were of very superior class, particularly those by Robert Dudley. The half-yearly volumes were entitled Boys Own Volume.

Routledges Every Boys Magazine was continued on the excellent lines marked out in the first volume.

The most notable event of the year, however, was the production in January, of the Boys Journal, price 3d., published by Henry Vickers in the Strand, and conducted by Charles Brown. This was a formidable rival of the two sixpenny journals already mentioned, fiction being provided by the celebrated authors, Percy B. St. John-Capt. Mayne Reid and W. Stephen Hayward, with other good writers.

In 1864, however, the Boys Journal was enlarged, furnished with separate plates on toned paper by Hurd, Prowse, etc., and the price increased to 6d.

These monthly magazines, as they well deserved, were extremely popular for a few years, but the result proved that monthly publications for boys, are a mistake, and if the experiment were to be repeated at the present day (1882) it would probably end in disastrous failure.

Routledge's is the only one now appearing, (1882) and it has passed through many trials and vicissitudes. In 1865, its title was changed to Routledge's Magazine for Boys, by which it was known for four years. In 1869, it was rechristened, Young Gentleman's Magazine, a name that held good for five years until 1874, when the original title, Every Boys Magazine, was reverted to. Its yearly volumes have, we believe, always been styled, Every Boy's Annual.

The Boy's Journal, which for several years was highly successful, began at length to lose popularity, owing to the growing success



of the weekly journals, and after the appearance of the February number in 1871, it was incorporated with the Youth's Playhour, a similar journal, commenced in May, 1870, and ended May, 1872.

(to be continued)

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### THE DIME NOVEL.

Its Place in American Literature.

By RALPH F. ADAMARE

#### I

The Background of the Dime Novel.

(concluded)

"But there was one rebel in bleak New England to take up the pen where Poe had left it. Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882) was to rescue, "Our Nell" from the fell clutches of the villain. He was to keep her safely, until the hero, valiant and strong, was to appear. He did his work nobly. He passionately sent out his Essays on the nobility of man, his heritage, his utopian future.

His was new creative philosophy. It acted like a bromide. It counter-acted the dry-rot effects of the New England school. Youth responded to the youthful philosophy of Emerson and the retreat of the aliens became a rout. There began to appear, a new spirit and a new literature.

Let us digress a moment. In the 30's-40's, and early 50's, the culture of the country was in New England, with Boston the center of the activity. In the book "Episodes of My Second Life", by A. Gallanga, this is very graphically told.\*



\*(The following observations from Gallongars book were the result of a trip made by him to the U.S.in the late 30's.

"The thing that I particularly admired and loved about Boston was,what I considered, its genuine English character. I looked on these emancipated colonies as merely the semirural purlieus of the great community from which they had sprung."(meaning England)-page 188)

"...where hardly one thought ever springs up in an American brain, that has not been filtered into it from the mass of ideas coming in with every batch of pirated editions of English publications."(page 189).

"But the General belonged to Memphis,Tenn...His quid was to this honorable Senator as necessary as the air he breathed.He now resumed his seat,took out a little pocket-knife and a black cake of tobacco-whittled off a few slices-rolled them up-took the lump between his teeth,and went to work in such earnest that,whatever improving effect his five minutes' conversation may have left in Mrs.Bell's mind, her carpet would not,in spite of the spittoon,for many years recover the disastrous results of his filthy indulgence. I do not think that revolting sight was needed, to thoroughly disgust me with the West. But it was the last drop in a brimful cup.(Page 210).

Need we inform you that Mr.Gallonga visited the frontier, and that is all his narrow European eyes could see?..This opinion was shared by the New Englanders,with very few exceptions.

"Most of them (meaning the learned professors)had traveled and studied in Europe;all labored to divest themselves of the peculiar foibles and prejudices of Yankeeism."(page 91)



"Charles Sumner and Brancroft Davis, both gentlemanly youths, who had just achieved their first European Tour and brought back some notions of European refinement...and were enthusiastic admirers of everything English. (page 96)

"New England was nothing if not pedagogical. (Page 109) ... (End of reference)

The foreign visitor, once he placed his foot on American soil, was warned about the barbarians beyond the Hudson. Therefore, his conception of the United States was that it represented a second and inferior England. In truth, that culture was not native. It was borrowed. Whenever a distinguished Bostonian spoke, the rest of the country shivered in its boots. For here, lived the intellectual. Here, he weaved his logic out of a false life. Hence, being neither fowl nor fish, his art was false. Now the mass, contrary to popular intellectual opinion, really respects learning. It stands in awe of a book; and following the false standards of the New England school, alien in every respect to them, like sheep they were led along wrong path. While Cooper had so gallantly shown the way out, to be seconded by a fiercer spirit in Poe, nevertheless, even with the aid of Emerson, their efforts seemed wasted as the New England school rose in power and influence. It looked bad for the native talent. It seemed for a moment that foreign thought would permeate the land and stagnate whatever ambition rustled in the Heart of Youth. Emerson was the only one left to fight this malignant blight, but he fought at a disadvantage. Only the New Englanders were capable of understanding him. He was not able to speak for the entire country. But in the nick of time someone did come--the hero.



The greatest name in the New World, is Walt Whitman (1819-1892). As with Christ, so with Whitman--his stature grows like a rock, with the ages. In the history of the world, there are five souls that have soared above the skies of human thought and understanding; that have been, if it is at all possible, perfect in life. Whitman is one of them. Space forbids and time forbids an appreciation of him here. After all, this is an article on the Dime Novel. But we are anxious to describe the stature of the man in order for you to realize fully how his coming changed the entire course of American literature.

He came out of the masses, and with his "Leaves of Grass", 1855, uttered forth the song of America. In this year, American literature definitely started. For this work of Whitman's was purely native. It threw overboard all the heavy forms that were hugged by the New England school. "Leaves of Grass" not only was a revolution in itself but it smashed tradition, taste, and morals. All poetic standards were discarded, in spite of which it achieved poetic heights climbed by few poets. Whitman directed the eyes of the young nation on the Western frontier, that Homeric epic of American history. Thus, when the song echoed in every nook and corner of the land, a youthful nation began singing the refrain. A new kind of literature was born--The Dime Novel. This supreme form of American art was completely neglected by critics. They looked upon it as tripe, in fact, few even mentioned it, but the few who did never had read a single line.

(To be Continued)

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98 WILLIAM STREET IN 1872

By Deadwood Dick, Jr.

98 William Street was a busy place indeed the morning of our visit, July 20, 1872. Since 1866, the firm had been doing business as Beadle and Company, but on the first of July the old firm name of Beadle and Adams, had been restored, and we stopped in to congratulate the house.

E. F. Beadle and Robert Adams, the founders of the firm, had been associates in publishing in Buffalo, N. Y. They came to New York in 1858, and their first metropolitan publishing venture was the Home Monthly, which soon became a widely circulated and very popular magazine. In 1859, they began to publish "Good Books for a Dime" and soon achieved fame and fortune.

Mr. Robert Adams died in 1866, and his two younger brothers succeeded to his interests. The death of Robert Adams was a severe blow; nevertheless, the business continued to grow yearly in importance, advancing steadily to a perfectness, both in working detail and in literary preeminence, which comes of long familiarity with and through, the love of the publishers responsible vocation.

This July morning, we found the senior partner, Mr. E. F. Beadle, at his desk. As a skilled printer and publisher, he was in charge of the press production of the books and periodicals, business circulars, posters, etc., and to his taste are chiefly due the originality and beauty of the work produced; for the Beadle publications are noted for their typographical excellence and artistic illustration. The Saturday Journal, in our opinion, is the handsomest weekly story



paper ever published.

Mr. William Adams, we found devoted to general business management of the firm--a position demanding financial ability of the best order, for the amount of the firm's yearly transactions is, of course immense.

At Mr. David Adams' desk we found that gentleman in charge of the general literary management--a congenial field for the exercise of tastes and talents which today are so essential to success in publishing books and periodicals.

And last, but not least, we found the practical and courageous Orville J. Victor, the busiest man of all--editor of the Beadle publications, including the Saturday Journal which has made such an outstanding success since its first number appeared year before last. No weekly paper ever started in America attained, in so brief a time, so large a circulation.

For this enterprising and far-sighted firm who have ventured in the publishing line on almost every form of book and periodical, from a one-cent song book to a three-dollar volume, and a popular weekly paper, achieving the same successful result, we wish continued success and prosperity.

Congratulations, Messrs. Beadle and Adams! May your famous publications continue to flourish for many a day!

(Editor's Note: The facts around which the foregoing has been written, are from The Saturday Journal of July 20, 1872, in an article which was undoubtedly written by Orville J. Victor, himself.

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POPULAR AMERICAN NOVELS.

Item No.12: HILTON'S TEN CENT NOVELS-Size  $4\frac{1}{4}$  x  $6\frac{1}{4}$  inches; one column to a page; 96 to 100 pages; yellow covers..Published by W.E. Hilton, 128 Nassau St., New York, 1871."A dollar book for ten cents." -Nice illustrations..Some of the stories: No.1, "The Dead Boxer, or, The Secret Blow;" No.4, "Mark Myrtle or, The Maniac Hunter;" No.9, "Tenosopa, or, Friendly Sioux;" No.12, "Red Raven, a Texan Tale," by Prof. Chas. S. Dodd. (No author's names given to other titles.)

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LIGHT-HEARTED HARRY.

"Light-Hearted Harry, a Crispy Story of New York" by George G. Small, was one of the big hits of George Munro's Girls and Boys of America, during the early part of 1874. A thrilling story of city streets.

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ANOTHER JOHN R. MUSICK ITEM.

In connection with Mr. Beck's claim in our December number, that John R. Musick wrote the James Boys stories under the pen name of D.W. Stevens; the following notice from the Yankee Blade, referred to in our Jan. number, is significant:

"Much of his work is done for newspaper syndicates; many of his lighter stories appear under a nom-de-plume."

The nom-de-plume is not given, however. Is it possible that it is the James Boys stories to which the Blade writer refers? (probably Musick himself, as it was publicity for him). Musick must have known his Missouri, his home state, and the locale of the James Boys.

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JANUARY 13, 1832

Horatio Alger, Jr., was born at Chelsea, Massachusetts, one hundred years ago. He has not been forgotten. Many a reference to him and his famous books, appeared in the newspapers and periodical press during January. For thousands of grown-up Americans, he is numbered among the immortal great.

Another famous writer, William T. Adams, (Oliver Optic) encouraged Alger to write, and accepted his first story, "Ragged Dick", for publication in Student and Classmate, at that time being edited by Adams.

If you read the Alger books in your boyhood days, you can easily lose yourself in a glamor of pleasant memories of likable newsboys, telegraph messengers—train boys, bootblacks, and the like, endowed with wisdom and cunning far beyond their years. Boys stopped runaway horses, saved beautiful girls from the lash of cruel men, and did similar deeds of heroism, in the most successful style of popular literature.

But Alger's books do not strictly belong in the catalog of Dime Novels. He occupies a niche all by himself, but the fact that his books have been thrown out of the juvenile departments of public libraries, puts him in our index of Bohemian writers of lurid literature for boys.

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### HAPPY HOURS BROTHERHOOD.

Several new names have recently been enrolled on the membership roster:

G. Meredith, 35 Station Rd., Folkestone, Kent,  
England.

Roland D. Sawyer, Ware, Mass.

W. M. Claggett, 118 E. Duval St., Jacksonville,  
Fla.

Fred Lee, 1050 Conelius Av., Indianapolis, Ind.

Winfield Robbins, Rockville, Maine.



Carl Swanson, Washburn, North Dakota.

Guy Baumgardner, Oak Grove, Missouri.

Members who contributed to the fund to keep up the graves of Wild Bill and Calamity Jane, will be interested to learn that the graves are now in good shape.

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ADVERTISERS...

In the original of this issue, of which this is a reprint, the following were among the advertisers:

Happy Hours Magazine.

Deadwood Dick, Jr.

Charles Bragin.

Collector's Miscellany.

The Amateur Mart.

Fred T. Singleton.

THE HOBBY WORLD.

Raymond L. Caldwell.

The Magazine Boy.

J. Edward Leithhead.

Wm. M. Kroling.

Book Exchange.

Ralph F. Cummings.

NECKLESS RALPH'S DIME NOVEL ROUNDUP.

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